

U.S. Application No.: NEW
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3926.162

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims and claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter is added to the text.

More specifically, Applicants point out that an Amendment filed July 5, 2004 was entered with in the PCT application (increasing the total number of claims to 24). Applicants herewith present only a translation of original claims 1-21, such that the next highest number claim for purposes of US national stage entry is claim 22. Applicants further cancel original claims 1-21 and present the claims as filed with the PCT application on July 5, 2004, as new claims 22-43 (use claims not being maintained).

Accordingly, new claims 22-43 find support in the PCT application, and entry and examination thereof is respectfully requested.

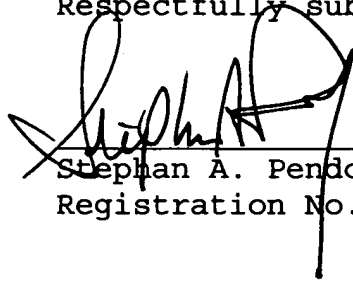
Paragraphs [0002] and [0009] have been amended, respectively, to remove references to Claims 1 and 13 in the specification. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added.

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Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration
are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephan A. Pendorf', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Stephan A. Pendorf
Registration No. 32,665

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Date: **June 20, 2005**

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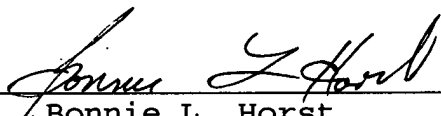
EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EV550579780US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **June 20, 2005**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated with sufficient postage and is addressed: **ATTN: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.



Bonnie L. Horst